

# The Scratching Post

Confurence 9, Issue 1, Wednesday, January 14, 1998

The *Scratching Post* is put together daily during CF9 by Darrel L. Exline, a.k.a.: Jym Chago, "Your friendly neighborhood polar bear."

## Welcome to Confurence 9



This is the premier issue of the *Scratching Post* for Confurence 9, and the first time I've tried my hand at editing it. (Let's hope I can do the job some justice)

Look for a new issue every afternoon throughout the convention, and a brief final issue on Sunday Morning.

If you have anything of interest to be placed in the next issue, leave a note with the staffers at the Information Desk and it will get to me. Of particular interest is any Room-party information or other non-scheduled events.

Pre-typed submissions can be submitted in any PC-compatible formats on floppy or Zip disk, or I can type it in myself.

—Darrelx

## Where... What... Who...?

The Confurence information desk, which is located at the base of the stairs adjacent to the Buena Park Hotel lobby, is the place to go if you have any questions during the convention.

Our helpful Info Desk volunteers are always kept up to date about any changes throughout the con, and will be happy to pass that info along to any lost or confused furies.

## Welcome to all of our Guests and especially to our Special Guest of Honor

Let's all make **Lisanne Norman** feel welcome at this year's Confurence. After all, she's traveled all the way from Scotland to be our honored guest!

We also welcome **Michelle Light** as our Artist Guest of Honor, and **Mike and Carole Curtis** joining us as well.

## Convention Registration and Badge Pickup Directions

One of the most confusing parts of any con is trying to get through those long registration lines, and nothing makes this more frustrating than finding out you waited in the wrong line.

Refer to the following to make sure you're not in the wrong place.

- **Pre-registered Members:** there will be two lines for pre-registered members; one for last names A-L and the other for names M-Z.
- **At-the door Registration:** There will be a third line next to the pre-registered members for all at-the-door registration.
- **Converting Membership:** go to the "At-the-door" membership line to take care of any conversion from pre-registered Membership to Sponsor, Super Sponsor, etc.
- **Guests, Sponsors, Super-sponsors:** (pre-paid only) Follow the signs to find the

special "Express" line for guests and pre-paid sponsors only. Check with the list at the Information Desk if you're not certain we have you down as a sponsor or guest.

- **Dealers and Publishers:** go to the Dealer Room and get your badge from Doodles (Steve Gattuso).
- **Security Staff:** see Tigereyes (Zsanene Klinkler) for your work schedule and to pick up your convention membership badge.
- **Dealer's Helpers:** people helping dealers set up their tables, but not actually a part of the dealer's table should be escorted with the dealer they are helping to see Doodles in the Dealer's Room. You will get a hand-stamp to allow you into the dealer room for setup only. Then get your membership as listed above.

## Attention Dealers:

### Last-minute new information!

The CA board of Equalization finally gave in and will allow Doodles (Steve Gattuso) to issue Reseller numbers to Dealers on-site until Friday!

For more information, contact Doodles at Dealer Ops just inside the door to the Dealer's Room.

## Artist's Alley Info

Artist's Alley will be open from 10am to 6pm Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday. Signups start at 9:45am each day on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone selling merchandise at Artist's Alley must present a valid

CA Reseller's Permit to be issued a space.

Tables for Artist's Alley will be taken down each evening immediately after Artist's Alley closes to clear the busy hallways.

### Club Technofur on Thursday Night

Come join us for the return of Club Technofur on Thursday Night,. The DJ line-up will be:

- DJ Rod from 9pm to 10pm
- DJ ZS from 10pm to midnight
- The Goth Dance will be from midnight onward, until probably 2am

DJ ZS will be paying tribute to the early days of Techno and Rave! Orbital, Acen, Utah Saints, Apotheosis, Smart E's, Altam-8, Moby, Praga Khan, The Prodigy (before the face lift!), Technotronic, 808 State, and many more will all be waiting for you! (So to speak)

We're gonna party like it's 1992! Or 1993! Something like that... So bring your Dr. Seuss hat, your whistle, and your Day-Glo duds!

—Zrath-Smile

### It's not too late to Volunteer

Volunteer Staff Members help keep ConFurence running!

Volunteers can choose to get this year's membership reimbursed, or a get free membership for next year's convention. We only ask that you work 16 hours or more during the convention, with no

### This Great California Weather!

It looks like all the storms that are lined up to slam into California are now predicted to hit further to the North, and will probably not affect us here in Southern California!

The forecast as of Tuesday Evening showed partly cloudy through the weekend, and warming on Sunday.

more than 8 hours worked on a single day.

In addition, Staff members will have access to the Staff Lounge during the convention.

See Andrew or Carol in the Cypress Room (Con Operations - upstairs at the end of the hallway) to sign up as a Volunteer Staff Member.

### Signs and Flyers

We all know that fan conventions always end up with lots of last minute room parties and other info that can best be distributed by papering the walls of the convention hotel with flyers.

The Buena Park Hotel has been extremely gracious by allowing us to put up information anywhere we want to, with just one caveat: **ONLY USE MASKING TAPE.**

Any flyers or signs that are put up with anything other than masking tape will be immediately taken down and discarded by any CF9 staff or security member who notices it, in order to keep us in good graces with the hotel staff.

### Smoking Policy Addendum

In the last In-Fur-Nation, it was stated that the Smoking Policy for this convention was that smoking is forbidden in all lobby and meeting room areas except for the Shoe-Bops bar and individual sleeping rooms.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998, a new law went into effect banning all smoking in any public place (including restaurants and bars) in the entire state. This means that smoking will only be allowed in private sleeping rooms, or outside the hotel.

The only exception to this rule is that we will allow smoking in the lounge rooms only if you use a smoke-catching air filtered ashtray, and place the cigarette (or cigar) in the ashtray between puffs.

### Hotel Parking

Please remember that parking in the Hotel Parking Lot is for registered guests of the hotel only. If you are not registered at the hotel, and you park in their parking lot, your car may be towed.

If you are not staying overnight, please consider using the parking lots at the Knott's Berry Farm. These lots are very inexpensive, including one that is free for up to 4 hours.

### Contacting CF Staff

If there are any emergencies that need to be brought up with one of the Lead staff members, keep in mind that we've had to distribute responsibilities to keep up with our ever-growing Con. Loosely translated, this means "Don't go to Rodney for everything."

Please don't go to the wrong staff member with a problem that they won't be able to handle. Use the following list to find out who the correct person to contact is:

- **Hotel-related:** Mark Merlino
- **Program Schedule:** Rodney O'Reilly (a.k.a. Vinson Mink).
- **Guests and Sponsors:** see Rodney for this, too.
- **Dealer's Room and Artist's Alley:** Talk to Doodles (a.k.a. Steve Gattuso). Doodles has a table in the Dealer's Room right by the front door.
- **Security issues:** see Zsa'nene Klinkler (a.k.a. Tigereyes) or Patrick Callicott (a.k.a. Kelvador), or flag down anyone wearing an orange security sash. Tigereyes' and Kelvador's security sashes have an easy to spot black trim to make them stand out.

Look for Issue #2 of the  
Scratching Post on  
Thursday afternoon

# 2

# The Scratching Post

ConFurence 9, Issue 2: Thursday Afternoon, January 15th

The Scratching Post is put together daily during CF9 by Darrel L. Exline, a.k.a.: Jym Chago, "Your friendly neighborhood polar bear."

## This newsletter is for YOU!

If you have anything of interest to be placed in a future issue of The Scratching Post, leave a note with the staffers at the Information Desk. Of particular interest is any Room Party information or other non-scheduled or last minute events.

Pre-typed submissions can be accepted (and appreciated) if they are in any PC-compatible format on floppy or Zip disk, or I can just re-type it. Small graphics (which I can scan if needed) can also be included to go along with submitted articles.

Small "filler art" is also appreciated.

—Darrelx

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The only exception to this rule is that the Convention will allow smoking in our lounges **only** if you use a smoke-catching air filtered ashtray, and place the cigarette (or cigar) in the ashtray between puffs.

## The 1<sup>st</sup> (and last) Annual Post-it™ Pasty Pageant

Prize To be given to the artist of dealer who uses Post-it's to cover naughty bits on artwork in the most creative fashion.

The Prize: (secret)

The Rules: (such as they are)

- There must be naughty bits on the original artwork (otherwise, what's the point?)
- You must use at least one Post-it™ in your pasty design. (any other things you use are up to you)
- It must be your own art that you use the pasty on.

- Free Post-it's available in the Dealer's Den
- Judging will be done on a completely unfair and partial basis by me, Steve Gattuso, so there. Nyah.
- Winner to be announced Sunday Morning.

Another silly-ass contest brought to you by ConFurence.

It stays crunchy, even in milk!

\* "Post-it" is a trademark of the 3M corporation. The only company to create more sticky things than Brian O'Connell.

- Doodles (Steve Gattuso)

## Help keep our costs down!

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## Where... What... Who...?

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Our helpful Info Desk volunteers are always kept up to date about any changes throughout the con, and will be happy to pass that info along to any lost or confused furries.

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--Zrath-Smiley

## Look for Issue #3 of the Scratching Post on Friday afternoon!

## Thursday's Schedule: January 15th

Room / Area	Noon	1p	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(Dealer's Room)	Dealer's Room Setup: 12Noon to 6pm. See Doodles at the Dealer's Room Op's desk near the front door.											
Valley View 1 (Con Suite)								Reading: Lisanne Norman				
Buena Park Room Lecture Hall					Show Setup				Club Technofur: 9pm till about 2am.			
Colony Inn (Card Games)												
Garden Room (FRP Gaming)					TFOS Game, 4pm till ?							
Cabana Room (Internet Lounge)												
Lanai Room (Electr. Gaming)												
Con Registration					3pm to 6pm: Convention Registration and Badge Pickup in front of the Cypress Room.							

\* Items that have been added or modified from the original schedule are written in an *italic bold font*

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### CORRECTION: Dealer's Den Hours are Wrong in the Pocket Program!

Please refer to the schedule grid on the back of this issue for the correct hours for the Dealer's Den. Dealer setup is allowed one hour prior to opening, and all dealers must exit within one hour of the room closing, each day.

### It's a good Turnout so far...

As of the close of Con Registration on Thursday, over 920 Attending members have been signed up.

...and this is ONLY the first day!

### Where... What... Who...?

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Our helpful Info Desk volunteers are always kept up to date about any changes throughout the con, and will be happy to pass that info along to any lost or confused furies.

If you have anything that needs to go into the next Scratching Post, write it down and leave it at the Information Desk. Please remember to write down all pertinent information about your event, since several articles submitted Thursday did not include times and/or locations, so they could not be included in this issue.

### Room Sharing

We have sign-up sheets at the Information Desk for people who have extra crash space in their rooms, and for people looking for crash space.

### Furry Poll

Please return the CF9 Furry Poll Sheet that is part of your membership packet to the Information Desk when you have completed it.

### Furry Puppet Show

Join Steve Plunkett (Tod\_Fox) for his Furry Puppet Show in the Buena Park Room, Furdur, Jan 16 at 11am

An Encore performance will be on Sunday, also at 11am.

-Tod\_Fox

### Badge Stickers

This year, the costly ribbons denoting special membership status have been replaced with multi-colored stickers on the badges.

If you are a Staff Member, Sponsor, Super-Sponsor, or Guest, you are supposed to have one of these multi-colored stickers on your badge, or you will not be granted access to the lounge areas that your status entitles you to.

During registration on Thursday morning, though, some of the stickers were not yet available, and those busy badgers working registration had to issue badges to some members without the necessary stickers on them.

These stickers are now available at the registration desk. If you are a Guest, Sponsor, Super-Sponsor, or Staff Member and do not have a sticker on your membership badge to denote this, please stop by registration as soon as possible to pick yours up.

### Werewolf LARP

A Werewolf Live-action Role Playing game is being organized. De-tails available in room 312.

### Art Show Bid Stickers

This year, we are trying something new for the Art Show to eliminate a few problems that have happened in the past. We are issuing sheets of bidder number stickers to use when bidding on art in the Art show.

When you register as a bidder, you will be issued a sheet of 40 stickers (or 80 stickers if you think you will make more than 40 bids) with your bidder number pre-printed on them. One additional sticker with your bidder number will also be placed on the back of your membership badge for your reference.

When you are ready to place a bid on a piece of art, write down the dollar amount of your bid on the bid sheet, and then place the sticker on the same line as your bid to the left of the amount. You can even use this transparent sticker to cover where you wrote your bid, making it unalterable, even if you wrote in pencil.

We have been refining several aspects of this little experiment for the last few months, and hope that it makes bidding an error-free and easier process for everyone. We also hope that this process will eliminate false bids, forgotten bidder numbers, and the problem of trying to read illegibly written bidder numbers.

### Cartoonist Jam needs Artists

The Cartoonist's Jam scheduled for 4pm on Saturday needs artists who can draw fairly quickly to join in illustrating the topics suggested by attendees.

Show up in the Artist's Lounge on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor at 4pm Saturday if you want to participate.



## Transformation SIG / Experiment

Hosted by Boss Hoss in the Artist's Lounge from 11pm to Midnight Furday.

Basically, a fur concentrates on P-Shifting into his or her desired form, and everyone in the room concentrates on this fur to aid the change.

Participants should bring a picture of their intended form to show the others as a focus for the end product if they are chosen as a subject.

See ya' there!

-Zrath-Smiley

## Staff Members:

Remember to check the Master schedule in Con Ops (Cypress Room) frequently to see if you or the event you are working has been rescheduled.

## The Furry Post Office

Looking for a specific Furry? Need to deliver a message?

Stop by the Furry Post Office in the Internet Room (The Garden Room on the first floor). Register your name(s), Room number, and Hotel name and messages can be sent to you! Or leave a message to someone else, as well!

## Paw Fasting Ceremony

A Paw Fasting Ceremony is a public event where two (or more) furs express their love for each other in a bonding ritual committing their relationship.

If you wish to participate in the Paw Fasting, sign up at the Information Desk.

We are still looking for someone to lead and perform the Paw Fasting Celebration. Contact Rodney if you are a religious leader and are interested in being our host.

## Trapped in the Elevator!

Please remember that the BP Hotel elevators are rated for 10 people maximum... and this assumes that these are normal sized people (Hah!).

PLEASE do not use the elevators with more than 8 furs (or less if one or two are **particularly** large) or you may discover how claustrophobic you really are as you wait for maintenance to free you.

This has already happened to at least one crowd of 9 furs on Thursday.

Signs will be posted in the elevators to remind people of this fact. This is serious, folks: please do not tamper with the signs.

## Look for Issue #4 of the Scratching Post on Saturday Morning!

## Furday Schedule: January 16<sup>th</sup>

	Pearl Possum Valley View 2	Writer's Lounge 8 <sup>th</sup> floor	Artist's Lounge 9 <sup>th</sup> floor	Fursuit Suite 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	Starlight Room 9 <sup>th</sup> floor	Lecture Hall Buena Park Rm	Other Locations
early programs							8am - Art Show Setup continues. 10am - Registration opens
11am	Avian SIG	Pet SIG	Sketching in Pencil			<b>* Furry Puppet Show</b>	<b>* 10am - Dealers Den opens</b>
12 Noon		Furgonomics	So, you want to make a FurSuit?				12 Noon: Art Show Opens and remaining unreserved panels issued on first come, first served basis.
1pm	Dragon SIG	FB-6 Q & A					
2pm		MUF Workshop: Beginning	Inking Workshop	Making a body cast with tape			
3pm	Fox SIG		Painting Workshop				
4pm		Furry Love Stories	Copyright issues for Artists		4 - 6pm FurSuit Performance WS		
5pm	The Incisor Edition	History of Furry Fandom	Making a Web Page - Right!				
6pm		Writing/Drawing Comics for Beg.			6pm - 7pm: Ice Cream Social (free with CF9 membership!)		<b>* 6pm - Dealers Den closes</b>
7pm	Filk Contest						7:30 - Art show closes
8pm					Steppin' out in Fur	Thoth in Concert	
9pm	Open Filking					The Pet Auction	
10pm		Writing Furotica					
11pm or later			<b>* Transformation SIG / Experiment</b>			The Purple Nurple Live	

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### Fur Dance

Come one, come all! Join the fursuiters and shake your tail to lively music!



When: 9pm Saturday

Where: Poolside

Bad Weather Alternate: Starlight Room at 10pm.

Why just watch dancers, when you can dance with furs?

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### Sunday's Scratching Post Deadline:

The final CF9 issue of The Scratching Post (issue #5) will be done by Sunday Morning. The deadline for any info to be included in that issue is 9pm Saturday Night.

Articles must be written down and given to a volunteer at the Information Desk downstairs.

If you have artwork to go with your information, it can easily be scanned and included here.

### Furry Poll

Please return the CF9 Furry Poll Sheet that is part of your membership packet to the Information Desk when you have completed it.

### Room Sharing

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### Cabaret Fur le Dance '98

The Cabaret Fur le Dance tickets are now on sale at Amanda Geyer's table outside of Con operations (The Cypress Room).

If you plan on attending this year's Cabaret, you must purchase your tickets IN ADVANCE. Historically, these tickets sell out really early, so don't delay!

You must be over 18 to purchase tickets for the Cabaret, or to attend. This also counts as a convention function space, so you must present your CF Membership badge as well as your ticket to be allowed into the show.

### Cabaret Video Tapes

Only 100 tapes are available of the last Cabaret Fur le Dance, so hurry up and buy yours today!

Cabaret tapes are available from Amanda Geyer's table outside of Con Operations.

### Biggest ConFurence Ever!

As of the close of registration on Friday, there are over 1,120 attending members of CF9 – already more than the number of attending members at CF8!

With many furs not showing up until Friday night and Saturday morning, this number is sure to grow.

## Brief Local Dining Report

An interested fur figured he better share this information about the two local Denny's restaurants nearby:

The Denny's South on Beach Blvd is bad. The Denny's North on Beach Blvd. (just past 91 on the left) is good.

That is all.

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early programs							10am - Con Registration opens * 10am - Dealers Den opens
11am	Wolf SIG	MUF Workshop - Advanced		Making Money with Fursuits		Meet the Guests	
12 Noon	Gaming SIG		Coloring Workshop		12-2pm: Dog and Pony Show		12 Noon: Art Show Opens and remaining unreserved panels issued on first come, first served basis.
1pm	Hoofers SIG	Secrets of Disney	Computer Graphics SIG			Presentation Run-through	
2pm						Costume Presentation	
3pm	Paw Fasting Celebration	Meet Lisanne Norman	Photographing Wildlife		To the Extreme		
4pm		Information and Dis-information	Cartoonist's Jam		Furries Down Under SIG		
5pm	Taur SIG	Serial Stories on the Web	Animation SIG		5-7pm: Eat at Garfield's! Tix are purchased at the General Store		* 6pm - Dealers Den closes
6pm	Reptile SIG	Self Publishing books and comics	The Wake: lost furs remembered.		Art Auction #1		* 7pm - Art show closes
7pm			Art Show Sales				
8pm	Lisanne Norman reading						
9pm							* 9pm Poolside: Fursuit Dance (weather permitting)
10pm					* Fursuit Dance - alt. location if bad weather	Cabaret Fur le Dance. Buy tix in advance, adults only!	* 9pm Lobby: Uncle Kage's Story Hour
11pm or later							

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# The Scratching Post

ConFurence 9, Issue 5: Sunday, January 18th

The *Scratching Post* is put together daily during CF9 by Darrel L. Exline, a.k.a.: Jym Chago, "Your friendly neighborhood polar bear."

## Annual Disneyland Invasion

As usual, many, Many, MANY furs are going to invade the Happiest Place on Earth™ to cap off this annual migration to Southern California.

Several carpools will be organized in front of the Buena Park Hotel to leave at 8:30am Monday morning. Show up around 8am if you either need a ride, or have room to take other furs along with you to the park.

## Art Show

The Art show is only open from 10am to 12Noon on Sunday, and this is your LAST chance to place bids on the pieces you want.

Items that had more than 6 bids went to auction last night. Items that have 6 bids on them at 12Noon will go to Auction today at 2pm in the Starlight Lounge on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor.

Our Special Guest of Honor, Lisanne Norman, has presented CF9 with some special gifts: Original manuscripts and notes for her novels "Turning Point" and "Razor's Edge". They are up for bid in the Art Show.

Remember that Bidding for art closes promptly at 12Noon today. If any pieces have 5 or less bids on them, they belong to the last bidder and will be available for sale sometime after 2pm shortly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Art Auction begins.

## Fursuit Award Winners

This list may not be complete, as it was compiled from second hand information to make it into this issue. I apologize in advance for any misspellings of names or excluded information.

If you are a winner, find a Fursuit Crew member and claim your prize certificate.

Fursuit judging was broken up into two categories: Winners by popular vote, and winners for technical merit, judged by their peers.

In addition, the Fursuiters were broken up into two divisions: Introductory and Advanced, based on their prior experience in making and performing in Fursuits.

Popular Voting Results:

Introductory Division Runner Up: Stanley D. Lion. Introductory Division Winner: Zuma

Advanced Division Runner Up: Royal Ice. Advanced Division Winner: Tryggur and Berills

Technical Awards:

Introductory Division, Best of Materials: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Stanley D Lion, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Trax the Skunk, Winner: Zuma

Introductory Division, Best Presentation on Stage: 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie: Sly fox and Stanley D Lion, Winner: Twinkle and of Photos

Introductory Division Best of Show: Zuma

Advanced Division Best Use of Materials: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: The Big Bad Wolf, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Triggur and Berills, Winner: Royal Ice

Advanced Division Best Original Design: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Big Bad Wolf: 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Tryggur, Winner: (aka Royal Ice) Frost and Fire.

Advanced Division Best Presentation on the stage: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Vicky Rabbit, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Royal Ice, First place: Stupid Horse Tricks.

Advanced Division Best in Show: Royal Ice

Here is a brief rundown of the remaining programming for Sunday, January 18, 1998:

### Starlight Room (9th floor):

- 11a-1pm MPI Workshop
- 1-2pm: Meet the FurryMUCK Folk
- 2-4pm: Art Auction 2.

### Buena Park Room:

- 12Noon-1pm: Thoth in Concert

### Valley View 1:

- 11am-Noon: Mustelid SIG
- 1-2pm: Feline SIG
- 2-3pm: ConFurence Feedback

### Writer's Lounge (8<sup>th</sup> Floor):

- 11am-12Noon: Meet Mike and Carole Curtis
- 12-1pm: Expanded Relationships

### Artist's Lounge (8<sup>th</sup> Floor):

- 12Noon-1pm: Meet Michelle Light
- 2pm-?: Art Show and Art Auction Sales

### Fursuit Suite (2nd Floor):

- 11-12Noon: Clothing and Props
- 12Noon to 1pm: Carving a Head

### Other Locations:

- Dealer's Room opens at 10am and closes at 4pm Sharp.

I'll see you at CF10, April 1 to April 4, 1999 at San Diego's Town & Country Hotel and Convention Center!